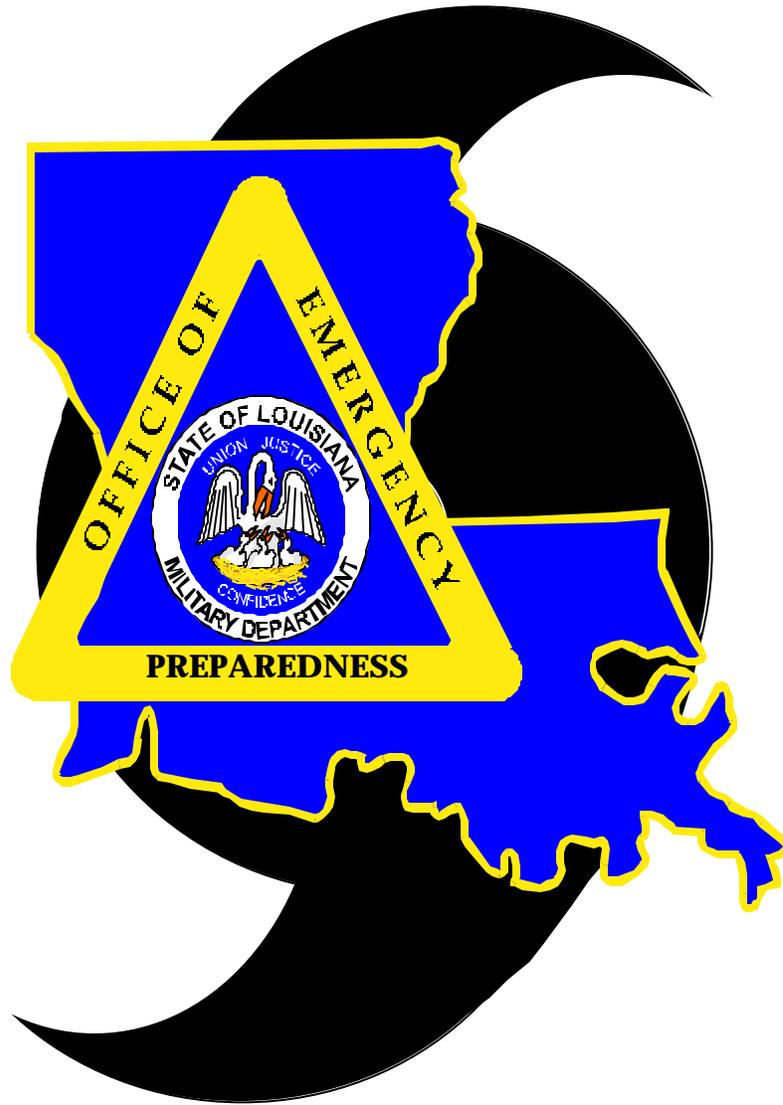


**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN  
SUPPLEMENT 1B**



**SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA  
HURRICANE EVACUATION  
AND SHELTERING PLAN**

REVISED JULY 2000

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HURRICANE EVACUATION AND SHELTERING PLAN**

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Honorable Charles A. Sandifer  
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Honorable Will Langlinais  
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Honorable J. Mitchell Ourso Jr.  
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Honorable Douglas R. Daigle  
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Honorable Walter Comeaux  
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Honorable Scott A. Angelle  
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St. Martin Parish

Honorable William A. Cefalu  
Parish President  
St. Mary Parish

Honorable Ritter Trahan  
Police Jury President  
Vermilion Parish





## **PART I: GENERAL**

### **A. SUMMARY:**

The Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Evacuation and Sheltering Plan is intended to provide a framework within which the parishes can coordinate their actions with State government in order to deal with a catastrophic hurricane.

A catastrophic hurricane is defined as a hurricane in Category 3 Slow (5 mph or less forward speed), and categories 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Scale of hurricane strength (See Annex A). Hurricanes in Category 1, 2 and 3 Fast, are considered less destructive and can be met through the use of normal emergency preparedness procedures on the part of the Parish and State governments.

The overall strategy for dealing with a catastrophic hurricane is to evacuate as much of the at risk population as possible from the path of the storm and relocate them to a place of relative safety outside the projected high water mark of the storm surge flooding and hurricane force winds.

The Southwestern Region is generally defined as those parishes which have all or a large part of their population west of the Atchafalaya River Basin and south of a line drawn along Interstates 10 and 49 from Baton Rouge, through Lafayette to Lake Charles. The Region includes the parishes of **Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson-Davis, Lafayette, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion**. (A map is included as Annex B).

The plan prescribes an orderly procedure for the parishes to follow in response to a catastrophic hurricane. It does not replace or supersede any local plans, which are incorporated by reference, nor does it usurp the authority of any local governing body.

The plan defines the problems inherent in evacuating the Southwest Louisiana area and points out the limits that affect evacuation and sheltering measures. It prescribes the actions to be taken at each stage of a catastrophic hurricane emergency.

### **B. PURPOSE**

It is the intent of this plan to establish guidelines for the direction, control and coordination of evacuation of the Southwest Louisiana Region in order to protect life and property. The plan also prescribes procedures and

responsibilities for sheltering operations.

## **C. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

1. When a hurricane enters, or forms in, the Gulf of Mexico, and it is perceived as a potential catastrophic threat to the Southwest Louisiana Region. The State Office of Emergency Preparedness and each parish will activate Emergency Operating Centers (EOCs) and declare a state of emergency. The State and parishes will commence planned emergency operations and coordinate their actions including activating and maintaining all means of communications.

The State, risk area and host area parishes will cooperate to evacuate and shelter as many people as possible in accordance with the Dept. of Social Services (DSS) / American Red Cross (ARC) Shelter Plan.

2. Evacuation will be carried out in three phases, as follows:

- a. Precautionary / Voluntary:

This phase will concentrate on people who are most vulnerable to a hurricane and the effects of both water and wind. It is directed at offshore workers, persons on coastal islands or in wetlands areas and persons aboard boats. No special traffic control, transportation, or sheltering measures will be taken.

- b. Recommended Evacuation:

This phase is enacted when a storm has a high probability of causing a significant threat to people living in the areas at risk. Parish and State government authorities will recommend that persons at risk evacuate. The parishes will designate staging areas for persons needing transportation, if necessary.

- c. Mandatory:

This is the final, most serious phase of evacuation. Authorities will put maximum emphasis on encouraging evacuation and limiting ingress. Designated State evacuation routes maybe augmented by turning additional lanes into one-way outbound traffic and the State Police with Local law enforcement assistance will assume responsibility for traffic control on those routes. As the storm gets close to the Southwest Region, evacuation routes

will be closed and the people remaining will be directed to last resort refuges.

#### **D. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities**

The organization and assignment of primary and secondary responsibilities are detailed in the State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Listed below are the key participants and their roles in the event of a catastrophic hurricane:

1. Governor:
  - a. Proclaim a State of Emergency.
  - b. Issue supplementary declarations and orders as the situation requires.
  - c. Authorize and direct the use of State government personnel and other resources to deal with the emergency.
  - d. Authorize and direct the authorities of non-risk parishes to coordinate the opening and operation of shelters with DSS in conjunction with ARC, and to lend all possible assistance to the evacuation and shelter effort.
  - e. Request Federal government assistance as needed.
2. Adjutant General/Director, Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness (LOEP):
  - a. Serve as the Governor's executive agent and lead agency for the management of emergency and disaster operations.
  - b. Coordinate state and local operations.
  - c. Prepare and coordinate requests for assistance to other states and the Federal government.
  - d. Keep the Governor and the Legislature informed of progress and problems in dealing with the emergency or disaster.
3. Louisiana State Police (LSP): Maintain order on State-controlled highways and expedite the flow of traffic from the risk to the host

parishes.

4. Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD): Assist in maintaining evacuation routes at full capacity until rising wind and water necessitate closure.
5. Dept. of Social Services (DSS): Coordinate the opening of shelters in conjunction with the ARC for evacuees from the risk area.
6. Dept. of Health and Hospitals (DHH): Will assist in the coordination of the evacuation and sheltering of people who have special medical and health needs.
7. Parishes: Conduct and control local evacuation in parishes located in the risk area and manages reception and shelter operations in parishes located in the host area.

**E. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

Direction and control is specified in the State Emergency Operations Plan.

**F. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

The Director of the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness is responsible for maintaining this plan. The parishes affected by the plan are responsible for reviewing and updating their hurricane procedures annually.

**G. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES**

The Louisiana Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act of 1993  
Louisiana Emergency Operations Plan  
Parish Emergency Operations Plans of:

Acadia  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Iberia  
Iberville  
Jefferson-Davis  
Lafayette  
St. Martin  
St. Mary  
Vermilion

## **PART II: SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

### **A. SITUATIONS**

1. This area is located in a floodplain some of which lies at or below sea level and is surrounded by an extensive marine estuarine system of lakes, canals, bayous, the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River. Some parish storm drainage systems discharge into area waterways. High water levels would impede adequate pumping and prevent relief against flooding from heavy rainfall.
2. Tidal surge, associated with the "worst case" Category 3, 4 or 5 Hurricane Scenario for the area, could cause a maximum inundation of 20 feet above sea level in some of the parishes in the Region, not including tidal effects, wind waves and storm rainfall.
3. It will take a long time to evacuate large numbers of people from the Region.
4. The road systems used for evacuation are limited, and some of the roadways are susceptible to flooding.
5. The combined population of the Region is approximately 726,883 (1990 Census, as amended July 1, 1999), many of whom are at risk from a hurricane (Annex C).
6. Many of the Region's emergency shelter facilities may be inundated by flood waters when threatened by a slow moving Category 3 or above hurricane. Sheltering of evacuees outside of the Region becomes necessary.
7. In most emergencies the number of persons needing public shelter will be limited. In the event of a catastrophic hurricane, however, the evacuation of over a half-million people from the Southwest Region could overwhelm normally available shelter resources.

### **B. ASSUMPTIONS**

1. Hurricane monitoring and warning reports will be available from the National Weather Service/Hurricane Center.
2. All Parishes will use the available data and research from hurricane studies and surge predictions.

3. All Parish Emergency Preparedness Offices, along with the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness (LOEP) will be in communications with one another in the preparatory period, during and following the emergency.
4. Intra-parish alerting and coordination activities with all departments and agencies having emergency responsibilities will occur. Those functions necessary for alerting, coordination and the protection of life and property will be accomplished in accordance with the Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) in each parish.
5. The primary means of hurricane evacuation will be personal vehicles. School and municipal buses government-owned vehicles and vehicles provided by volunteer agencies might be used to provide transportation for individuals who lack transportation and require assistance in evacuating.
6. School Districts will close schools when requested to do so by the parish Office of Emergency Preparedness, when it is deemed necessary to do so for the public's safety.
7. A portion of the public will act in their best interest and voluntarily evacuate the high risk areas before a recommended evacuation announcement.
8. Voluntary evacuation will be advised well in advance of landfall. Much of the public will evacuate high-risk areas when recommended by local authorities. Most will evacuate following a mandatory evacuation order.
9. The need to evacuate could occur day or night, and there may be little control over the starting time due to the timing of the storm.
10. Manpower and equipment of the political subdivisions will be exhausted and outside support will be needed.
11. Many evacuees will seek shelter with relatives, friends or in motels/hotels in host areas and not use public shelters.
12. Risk area parishes will not normally open shelters for a catastrophic hurricane, with certain exceptions. Officials will direct residents to

evacuate out of the way of the storm surge. Public shelter located outside the risk area will be needed for large numbers of evacuees.

13. Last resort refuges, will be required for those individuals who do not or can not evacuate the risk areas.
14. Hospitals, nursing homes, group homes, etc. will have pre-determined evacuation and/or refuge plans if evacuation becomes necessary. All facilities will have approved Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plans as mandated by the State of Louisiana, Dept. of Health and Hospitals (DHH).
15. Maximum use of official evacuation routes out of the Region will be used based on plans described in Part IV of this plan.
16. Emergency Preparedness Offices will maintain close coordination with each other and keep each other informed of their actions on a timely, continuing basis.
17. As a hurricane causes the need for a mass evacuation from the Southwestern area, the Governor will declare a state of emergency that will require host parishes outside the risk area to open designated shelters.
18. Local governments in host areas will be responsible for traffic control from the limited access evacuation routes to the registration centers in their parishes.
19. US Highways 71, 90, 165, 171 and 190 are unlimited access routes having numerous entrances and exits. It is not practical to limit access to them in time of emergency or to convert them to one-way outbound evacuation routes. Traffic flow will continue normally, and two-way traffic of emergency vehicles will be directed to these routes.
20. Interstate highways are limited access routes. Entrances and exits can be controlled to make the routes into one-way outbound evacuation routes. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) and Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) shall provide the management of the traffic flow, assisted by the National Guard (LANG).
21. Traffic control on city and parish roads that feed into the evacuation routes will be conducted by city and parish law enforcement officials.

Once the evacuees reach the evacuation routes, LSP, DOTD and LANG will control the traffic flow. (See regional map)

22. As a hurricane approaches land, high winds and rising water will affect evacuation routes, making travel hazardous. Evacuation orders will take this into account and provide for evacuation routes to be closed at the point at which travel would become hazardous.
  
23. As evacuation routes are closed, people who are still in the risk area will be directed to last resort refuge within the area.

## **PART III: EVACUATION**

### **A. PROCEDURES**

The procedures outlined here are the minimum actions that will be required from State, parish and municipal authorities in a hurricane emergency, to move as many people as possible from the areas threatened by the hurricane storm surge as identified by the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers' SLOSH estimates.

### **B. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:**

The Regional Evacuation Plan has three phases: Precautionary, Recommended and Mandatory. Each phase requires specific actions to be taken at about the same time by all the organizations that are operating under this plan. The cycle of Decision, Implementation and Information Feedback is critical to the operation of this plan.

1. Precautionary / Voluntary Evacuation:
  - a. Risk Area Parishes:
    1. Declare a state of emergency, file with clerk of court and transmit declarations to LOEP.
    2. Activate EOC and prepare for 24-hour operations.
    3. Alert all emergency workers in the jurisdiction.
    4. Brief senior officials and deliver decision packets with draft proclamations and orders to the officials.
    5. Review evacuation and traffic control procedures.
    6. Make contact with all special facilities to ascertain their client load and advise them to update their evacuation planning and be ready to evacuate.
    7. Local transportation resources should be marshaled and public transportation plans implemented as needed.

8. Announce the location of staging areas for people who need transportation. Public transportation will concentrate on moving people from the staging areas to safety in host parishes with priority given to people with special needs.

b. Host Area Parishes:

1. Host Parish EOC's standby.
2. Alert parish emergency workers to stand by for traffic control, registration, shelter and mass care operations.
3. Alert ARC and other community organizations for possible mass care operations.
4. Review traffic control measures, and prepare to implement emergency traffic control.
5. Have any current road obstructions cleared on an emergency basis.
6. Report status of parish operations, including shelter preparations, to the State EOC every four hours.

c. State of Louisiana

1. Activate EOC and prepare for 24-hour operations.
2. Put State Departments and the ARC on standby alert in accordance with OEP Implementing Procedures.
3. Put National Guard units on standby alert.
4. Alert Parish Directors of the developing situation.
5. Call all nursing homes and other custodial care organizations in the risk areas to insure that they are prepared to evacuate their residents.
6. Alert FEMA of the situation and advise that the State may need Federal assistance.

7. Establish communications with risk area parish EOCs and test all communications means, including conference call procedures.
8. Prepare a proclamation of emergency for the State so that, when needed, State resources can be mobilized to support risk area evacuation and host area sheltering operations.
9. Have DSS review and update State shelter list.
10. Implement procedures for establishing special needs shelters.
11. Issue a standby alert to host parishes (See Part V, Shelters) to review their shelter status and prepare to host evacuees.
12. Prepare proclamations for the State to intervene in local situations if local governments fail to act, in accordance with RS 29:721-735.
13. Initiate media contacts to disseminate public information on potential evacuation and shelter operations.
14. Activate EAS system to disseminate hurricane advisories and evacuation and shelter information.
15. Have any current road obstructions cleared on an emergency basis.
16. Coordinate with DOTD to get traffic count information reported to the State EOC from the counters on major evacuation routes.

2. Recommended Evacuation:

a. Risk Area Parishes:

1. Put EOC on 24-hour operations.

2. Mobilize parish/local transportation to assist persons who lack transportation or who have mobility problems.
3. Announce the location of staging areas for people who need transportation. Public transportation will concentrate on moving people from the staging areas to safety in host parishes with priority given to people with special needs.
4. Coordinate public information releases and announcements with other parishes and the State to insure that consistent, correct information is given out.

b. Host Area Parishes:

1. Begin 24-hour emergency operations.
2. Activate reception and care plans.
3. Activate traffic control plans.
4. Deploy law enforcement and traffic control personnel.
5. Declare state of emergency, file with clerk of court and forward declarations to LOEP.
6. Begin reporting shelter capacity status and evacuees accommodated twice daily to LOEP, along with information on hotel/motel vacancies.

c. State of Louisiana:

1. Begin 24-hour operations at State EOC with key state agencies and voluntary organizations.
2. Issue declarations of a state of emergency for both risk and host parishes.
3. Coordinate with neighboring states, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas, and other states to which evacuees may go, such as Tennessee and Alabama. Advise states of the possible extent of Louisiana's evacuation and recommend appropriate traffic control measures.
4. Request risk and host parishes send evacuation and

shelter status reports to LOEP twice daily.

5. Mobilize State transportation resources to aid in the evacuation of people who have mobility and/or health problems. Deploy to support risk area parishes.
6. Mobilize State evacuation traffic control active and passive resources and people. Position barriers and people where they can take up their duties within an hour of being ordered to do so.
7. Advise media of preparations for orderly evacuation, traffic control and hosting operations.
8. Request FEMA send representatives to coordinate and prepare for possible deployment of the Advance Emergency Response Team.
9. Prepare EAS network to make sure evacuation and shelter information is updated and broadcast every two hours.

3. Mandatory Evacuation:

a. Risk Area Parishes:

1. Coordinate evacuation orders with State and other risk parishes.
2. Instruct persons living in designated evacuation zones to leave.
3. Impose traffic control to funnel persons to designated evacuation routes.
4. Designate staging areas and other facilities as last resort refuges. People at these locations who cannot be evacuated in time to avoid the storm will remain and take refuge in the designated buildings.
5. Assist persons with mobility limitations to find last resort refuge. Mobilize all transportation resources and request assistance from the state as needed.

6. Continue to update EAS and news media with evacuation information at two-hour intervals.
- b. Host Area Parishes:
1. Implement reception and care and traffic control plans.
  2. Continue reporting status of shelter spaces and evacuees accommodated to LOEP every four hours.
  3. Continue 24-hour operations.
- c. State of Louisiana:
1. Continue 24-hour EOC operations.
  2. Consult with risk area parishes to finalize mandatory evacuation orders.
  3. Implement mandatory evacuation traffic controls. Convert specified limited access routes to one-way outbound operations. Control main evacuation routes with State resources.
  4. Direct the evacuation and shelter of persons having mobility limitations, including persons in nursing homes, hospitals, group homes and non-institutionalized persons.
  5. Keep neighboring states informed of status and traffic control decisions.
  6. Keep EAS evacuation and shelter information updated on a two-hour basis, or more frequently if information is available on a timelier basis.
  7. Keep media informed and updated on evacuation and shelter information.
4. Termination of Evacuation:

When a major hurricane approaches the risk area, gale force winds will begin to blow across the evacuation route bridges and highways. Driving will become hazardous. In order to insure that traffic is stopped

in an orderly manner, the decision to stop traffic will be made in sufficient time prior to the arrival of gale force winds.

a. Risk Area Parishes

1. Use local police to block further access to evacuation routes.
2. Open last resort refuge buildings and encourage people to evacuate to those facilities.
3. Continue to report shelter status to LOEP at two-hour intervals including information on last resort refuge occupancy.

b. Host Area Parishes

1. Accept evacuees as long as they continue to arrive.
2. Take precautions as necessary to prepare shelters and operating facilities for severe weather, depending on the intensity of the storm and its projected path.
3. Continue to report shelter status to LOEP at two-hour intervals.

c. State of Louisiana

1. Issue order to close evacuation routes.
2. Alert risk parishes and State traffic control posts of the time that evacuation routes will be closed.
3. Alert EAS (refer to map) and news media so that people still in the risk area can seek last resort refuge.
4. Advise each risk parish to open last resort refuge buildings to people still in the risk area.
5. Prepare for damage assessment and post disaster recovery activities.

5. Return to Risk Area:

The decision to permit a return to the risk area after a hurricane has passed, will be made cooperatively among the State and the risk area parishes. The decision will be based on an overall evaluation of the situation, including the following major factors:

- a. Access: Are major routes into the area still intact and can debris be cleared in a minimum amount of time?
- b. Water Levels: Have flood surge waters receded from most of the risk area?
- c. Public Health: Are water and sewer services working properly? Are medical services functional and adequate?
- d. Subsistence: Is food available or can it be made available in the risk area?
- e. Are other public utilities, such as telephone and electricity available or can they be made available in the risk area in a short time?
- f. Can existing services support the people who survived the storm in the risk area as well as an additional influx of people?

After the storm, when the above questions can be answered positively and the state and local authorities are sure that the time has arrived to begin post disaster damage assessment and recovery phase, operations will be initiated in accordance with the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Manual, which is a part of the State Emergency Operations Plan.

- a. Risk Area Parishes:
  1. Continue/resume operations.
  2. Report the status of returning residents and their needs for services and assistance from the State.
  3. Conduct damage assessment recovery operations as appropriate.
  4. Provide security for the risk area in order to protect lives and property.

- b. Host Area Parishes:
  - 1. Continue/resume operations.
  - 2. Continue to report shelter status to LOEP.
  - 3. As shelters close, survey them for damages and report to LOEP.
  
- c. State of Louisiana:
  - 1. Continue emergency operations. Redirect State law enforcement resources to check the identity of people seeking entry into the risk area and provide security in the area.
  - 2. Initiate damage assessment and post disaster recovery operations in accordance with the Disaster Recovery Manual.

## **PART IV: Evacuation Routes**

### **A. HIGHWAYS:**

There are several major evacuation routes out of the Southwestern Louisiana Hurricane Risk Area. They are: Interstate 10 - East and West, Interstate 49-North, US Highway 190 - East and West, US Highway 171 - North, US Highway 27 - North, US Highway 165 - North, LA Highway 13 - North, LA Highway 70 - North and US Highway 90 - West.

1. All LA and US Highways in this area are unlimited access routes having numerous entrances and exits. It is impractical to limit access to them in time of emergency or convert them to one-way outbound. Traffic flow will continue normally and emergency vehicles will be directed to these routes.
2. Traffic control on city and parish roads that feed into the evacuation routes will be coordinated among LSP, city and parish law enforcement officials. Once the evacuees reach the evacuation routes, LSP, DOTD and LANG will control the traffic flow.
3. As a hurricane approaches land, high winds and rising water will affect evacuation routes, making travel hazardous. Evacuation orders will take this into account and provide for evacuation routes to be shut down at the point at which travel would become hazardous.
4. As evacuation routes are shut down, people who are still in the risk area will have to be directed to last resort refuge buildings within the area.
5. Interstate highways are limited access routes where entrances and exits can be controlled to make them into one-way outbound evacuation routes. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) and Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) can provide the management of the traffic flow, assisted by the National Guard (LANG).

## **B. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:**

The State traffic control and law enforcement authorities will control evacuation traffic from the point it enters the evacuation route network. Details of the routes concerned and the points at which State control will take over will be specified in the implementing procedures to this part.

1. Evacuation will be conducted in three phases as outlined in the basic plan: Precautionary, Recommended and Mandatory.
  - a. Precautionary / Voluntary:
    1. Persons working or living offshore or on coastal islands or wetlands will be advised to evacuate.
    2. LOEP, LSP, DOTD, DSS and ARC will be on standby alert, in case traffic flow increases to the point at which local law enforcement authorities need assistance.
    3. State traffic control resources, including barriers and personnel will be alerted and pre-positioned so they can be put into action at the next alert stage.
  - b. Recommended:
    1. Once the threatened parishes have declared a state of emergency, they will recommend that persons living in risk areas evacuate.
    2. This phase will produce a large number of evacuees. The Governor will declare a state of emergency for the area, imposing traffic control on selected evacuation routes and activating shelters in host parishes within a two-hour drive of the risk area. All State traffic control resources will be deployed.
    3. LSP and DOTD personnel will expedite the flow of traffic on all routes.
    4. State transportation resources will be made available to assist local authorities in transporting special needs

persons and persons who do not have their own transportation.

c. Mandatory:

1. Priority will be given to residents of low-lying areas.
2. Actions taken under the Precautionary and Recommended phases of evacuation will be continued.
3. Risk parishes will prepare to activate last resort refuges.
4. When traffic flow warrants, selected routes will be converted to one-way outbound traffic. People in the risk areas will be advised which routes to use and which destinations have shelters currently available. People in the risk area will be advised when it becomes advisable to close evacuation routes. At that time, risk area parishes will announce which facilities will be used for last resort refuges.
5. When directed, LSP and DOTD will convert limited access evacuation routes to one-way outbound traffic as follows: Interstate 10 - East; and Interstate 10 - West. Entrances and exits will be blocked off or kept open as deemed necessary.

## **PART V: SHELTER OPERATIONS**

### **A. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:**

1. The Department of Social Services (DSS) is the Department of State Government responsible for the coordination of shelter operations. DSS will provide administrative support, as required and coordinated, to local general population shelters and special needs shelters. DSS has the added responsibility of managing the State Regional Special Needs shelters, with assistance from DHH, LANG, DOC, and other state and voluntary agencies. DHH has the primary responsibility for providing medical coordination for all of the special needs populations, i.e., hospital and nursing home patients, persons on home health care, elderly persons and other persons with physical or mental disabilities. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) has the primary responsibility for the sheltering of jail and prison inmates from the risk area.
2. Shelter surveys have established the approximate number of shelter spaces in the State. The results of the surveys are summarized in the tabs to this appendix and are organized according to sectors. The complete shelter listing is maintained by DSS, and is incorporated into this plan by reference.
3. As parishes declare a state of emergency, DSS will coordinate with the LOEP and Parish OEP Directors in the preparation and opening of emergency shelters.
  - a. DSS will contact parish OEP directors along with the ARC and other shelter operating organizations. DHH will assist in coordinating the movement of special needs persons. DPS&C will prepare to coordinate the movement of prisoner populations to sheltered locations.
  - b. As the state of readiness escalates, recommended and mandatory evacuation will be ordered. DSS will see to it that the maximum number of shelters are opened, first in the A-sector parishes, then in the B- and C-sector parishes. DSS will also coordinate with the States of Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama and Texas to monitor the flow of evacuees into their states.
  - c. Should conditions warrant, DSS will coordinate with LOEP in obtaining permission to use such sites as Fort Polk and other

Federal, as well as State, sites for sheltering.

- d. DSS will implement a reporting system for reporting the number of shelter spaces available, by parish and the number of evacuees in shelters, by parish at frequent intervals. Reporting will be continued during the duration of the emergency and for as long as shelters continue to be occupied.
- e. DSS and DHH will assist in the coordination of the special needs shelter program throughout the State. Nursing homes and other special care facilities will be monitored, as well as, special needs persons in the population at large. Plans will be required for evacuation and sheltering of all such persons. Nursing homes will be required to have mutual aid agreements with facilities located within host area parishes. DHH will coordinate the provision of additional shelters for people not covered by mutual aid agreements.
- f. DSS will assist in coordinating the consolidation and closing down of shelters and restoring facilities to their normal condition.
- g. Last resort refuge inside the risk area will be the responsibility of the local parish government.

## **PART VI: STAGING AREAS / LAST RESORT REFUGE**

### **A. STAGING AREAS:**

The definition of a staging area is a central location, easily accessible to those ambulatory people who are in need of transportation to a shelter.

1. Residents who have no means of transportation will be directed to the staging areas.
2. Transportation vehicles will be pre-positioned to transport residents to shelters.
3. Once the evacuation routes are closed, the staging areas will become Last Resort Refuges.
4. After the storm has passed and the evacuation order is rescinded, transportation will be provided to return people dropped off at shelters to the staging area.

### **B. LAST RESORT REFUGE:**

The definition of Last Resort Refuge is a place for persons to be protected from the high winds, storm surge and heavy rains from the storm. Unlike a shelter, there may be little or no water or food and possibly no utilities. A Last Resort Refuge is intended to provide best available survival protection for the duration of the hurricane only.

1. Once evacuation routes are closed, people who were unable to evacuate the risk area will be directed to last resort refuge and /or staging areas.
2. When it is determined that weather conditions permit, rescue teams will be sent into areas designated for Last Resort Refuge to transport evacuees to designated shelters.

## **PART VII: Emergency Alert System (EAS)**

### **A. PROCEDURES:**

The Louisiana EAS is divided into seven (7) regions represented by a primary commercial radio station and various secondary radio, cable or television stations (refer to Annex F). Those primary seven (7) stations are federally recognized as Local Primaries (LP 1's).

Any State-generated EAS message will originate from the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness. Said message will be entered into the state's primary entry point (see Annex F) and, depending upon coding, be distributed to all LP 1's and beyond, or sent directly to an affected region only.

### **B. CONCEPT of OPERATIONS:**

#### **1. State Initiated EAS Message:**

- a. Approved state EAS message will be entered into the EAS network from LOEP by means of specialized equipment and forwarded to the state's primary entry point.
- b. Message will be affixed with a priority code to be determined by the Director of LOEP to determine the timeliness and frequency of message broadcast.

#### **2. Parish Initiated EAS Message:**

- a. Parish Offices of Emergency Preparedness determine and establish a method by which to transmit an approved EAS message to their LP-1 station.
- b. Should this message require broadcasting beyond that LP 1's range, said parish will request that LOEP distribute the message through the state EAS network.
- c. It is important to note that Local EAS procedures may be altered or customized by that parish's officials within the guidelines of Federal Civil Preparedness Guide (CPG) 1-15. A plan to reflect these procedures should be created and distributed by said parish.

#### **3. Hurricane Evacuation and Shelter Messages:**

- a. Hurricane Evacuation signs (Annex-H) in each EAS region will list AM or FM (both if applicable) frequencies to allow motorists access to official state and local evacuation and shelter information.

The Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness will continually broadcast information pertaining to sheltering and evacuation routes statewide or to applicable areas.

**SAFFIR / SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE**

**CATEGORY DEFINITION -- EFFECTS**

- 1 Storm surge 4 - 5 feet above normal. No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage.
- 2 Storm surge 6 - 8 feet above normal. Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2 - 4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft in unprotected anchorage's break moorings.
- 3 Storm surge 9 - 12 feet above normal. Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtain wall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with large structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet ASL may be flooded inland as far as 6 miles.
- 4 Storm surge 13 - 18 feet above normal. More extensive curtain wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet ASL may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.
- 5 Storm surge greater than 18 feet above normal. Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet ASL and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground may be required.

**TERMS TO KNOW**

FLASH FLOOD WARNING - Means a flash flood is imminent; take immediate action.

FLASH FLOOD WATCH - Means a flash flood is possible in the area; stay alert.

GAIL FORCE WINDS - 1 minute sustained wind ranging between 34-47 knots (39-54 mph).

HURRICANE - Pronounced rotary circulation, constant wind speed of 74 miles per hour (64 knots) or greater.

HURRICANE WARNINGS - A warning that 1-minute sustained surface wind of 64 knots/74 mph or higher associated with a hurricane are expected in a specified coastal location within 24 hours or less.

HURRICANE WATCH - Issued for a specific area that a hurricane or incipient hurricane conditions poses a possible threat to coastal areas generally within 36 hours.

SMALL CRAFT PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS - Small Craft Advisories - forecast of sustained winds of 21 knot - 33 knot, or seas 7 feet or greater, are expected within 12 hours. The term Small Craft Remain in Port has stronger meaning and will be used for these conditions during tropical weather situations.

STORM SURGE - An abnormal rise of the water along the shore as the result, primarily, of the winds of a storm.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION - Rotary circulation at surface, highest constant wind speed 38 miles per hour (33 knots) or less.

TROPICAL DISTURBANCE - A moving area of thunderstorms in open waters that maintains its identity for 24-hours or more.

TROPICAL STORM - Distinct rotary circulation, constant wind speed ranges 39 - 73 miles per hour (34 - 63 knots).

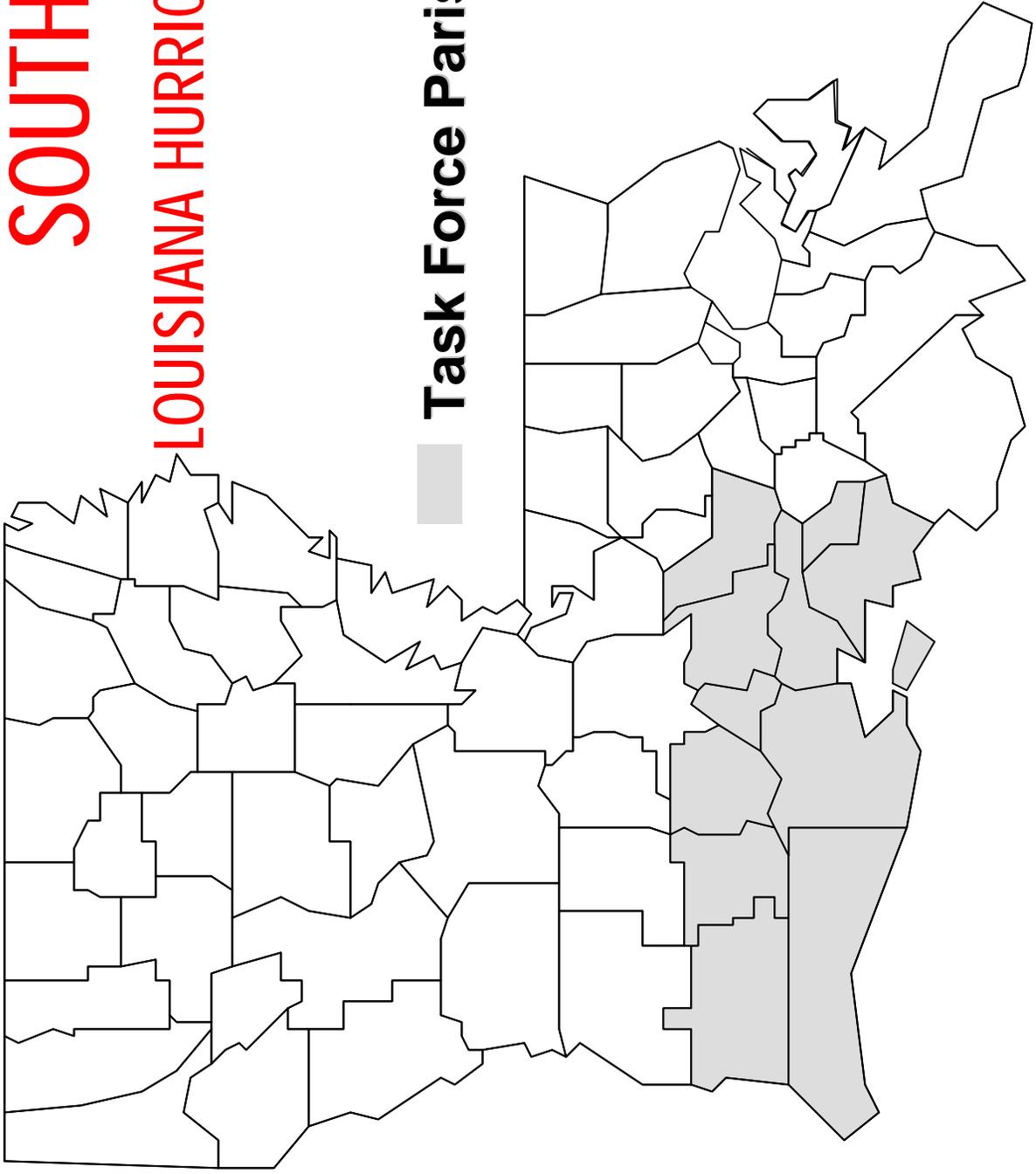
TROPICAL STORM WARNINGS - A warning for tropical storm conditions, including 1 minute sustained surface winds within the range 34 to 63 knots (39-73 mph) are expected in a specified coastal area within 24 hours.

TROPICAL STORM WATCH - Issued when a tropical storm or tropical storm conditions pose a threat to a coastal area generally within 36 hours. A tropical storm watch should normally not be issued if the tropical storm is forecast to attain hurricane strength.

TROPICAL WAVE - A trough of low pressure in the trade-wind easterlies.

# SOUTHWEST

## LOUISIANA HURRICANE TASK FORCE



**POPULATION AT RISK**

**ANNEX C**

***RISK AREA POPULATION SUMMARY\****

<b>Acadia</b>	<b>57,806</b>
<b>Calcasieu</b>	<b>180,901</b>
<b>Cameron</b>	<b>8,980</b>
<b>Iberia</b>	<b>72,959</b>
<b>Iberville</b>	<b>31,258</b>
<b>Jefferson-Davis</b>	<b>31,636</b>
<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>187,001</b>
<b>St. Martin</b>	<b>47,540</b>
<b>St. Mary</b>	<b>56,913</b>
<b>Vermilion</b>	<b>51,889</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>726,883</b>

**\* 1990 Census Data (as amended by the Center for Business and Economic Research, located at the University of Louisiana at Monroe)**

**POPULATION AT RISK**

**ANNEX C**

***CATEGORY 3 SLOW HURRICANE - 5 MPH***

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>EVACUEES *</b>	<b>VEHICLES</b>
<b>Acadia</b>	<b>33,402</b>	<b>12,001</b>
<b>Calcasieu</b>	<b>127,346</b>	<b>47,482</b>
<b>Cameron</b>	<b>10,720</b>	<b>7,347</b>
<b>Iberia</b>	<b>73,411</b>	<b>34,896</b>
<b>Iberville</b>	<b>14,711</b>	<b>6,663</b>
<b>Jefferson-Davis</b>	<b>12,473</b>	<b>4,415</b>
<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>31,864</b>	<b>12,470</b>
<b>St. Martin</b>	<b>23,613</b>	<b>10,888</b>
<b>St. Mary</b>	<b>58,386</b>	<b>21,040</b>
<b>Vermilion</b>	<b>36,324</b>	<b>14,014</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>422,250</b>	<b>171,216</b>

**\* The number of evacuees includes an estimate of the tourist population within each parish**

**POPULATION AT RISK**

**ANNEX C**

***CATEGORY 4 HURRICANE***

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>EVACUEES</b>	<b>VEHICLES</b>
<b>Acadia</b>	<b>35,207</b>	<b>12,851</b>
<b>Calcasieu</b>	<b>172,103</b>	<b>64,076</b>
<b>Cameron</b>	<b>10,720</b>	<b>7,347</b>
<b>Iberia</b>	<b>74,020</b>	<b>35,177</b>
<b>Iberville</b>	<b>27,426</b>	<b>12,434</b>
<b>Jefferson-Davis</b>	<b>16,428</b>	<b>5,816</b>
<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>167,317</b>	<b>65,877</b>
<b>St. Martin</b>	<b>48,667</b>	<b>22,428</b>
<b>St. Mary</b>	<b>58,386</b>	<b>21,040</b>
<b>Vermilion</b>	<b>52,777</b>	<b>20,286</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>663,051</b>	<b>267,332</b>

**\* The number of evacuees includes an estimate of the tourist population within each parish**

**POPULATION AT RISK**

**ANNEX C**

***CATEGORY 5 HURRICANE***

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>EVACUEES</b>	<b>VEHICLES</b>
<b>Acadia</b>	<b>35,207</b>	<b>12,851</b>
<b>Calcasieu</b>	<b>172,103</b>	<b>64,076</b>
<b>Cameron</b>	<b>10,720</b>	<b>7,347</b>
<b>Iberia</b>	<b>74,020</b>	<b>35,177</b>
<b>Iberville</b>	<b>27,426</b>	<b>12,434</b>
<b>Jefferson-Davis</b>	<b>16,428</b>	<b>5,816</b>
<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>167,317</b>	<b>65,877</b>
<b>St. Martin</b>	<b>48,667</b>	<b>22,428</b>
<b>St. Mary</b>	<b>58,386</b>	<b>21,040</b>
<b>Vermilion</b>	<b>52,777</b>	<b>20,286</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>663,051</b>	<b>267,332</b>

**\* The number of evacuees includes an estimate of the tourist population within each parish**

***TIME ESTIMATES FOR EVACUATION DECISIONS:***

Depending on the speed and strength of a hurricane and the number of people who are at risk, the time at which decisions must be made to evacuate will vary.

The attached tables give information on the times at which action to evacuate people must be taken if the total number of people in the risk area is to be evacuated in Category 3 (Slow), 4 and 5 hurricanes. A summary of information is given for each category.

Evacuees: Gives the total number people at risk in that storm.

Vehicles: An estimate of the average number of vehicles that would be used by the maximum number of evacuees.

Cut-Off Hours: The number of hours before a hurricane reaches landfall at which evacuation must be stopped because gale force winds would be blowing over evacuation bridges, making travel dangerous. The number of miles from landfall is also given.

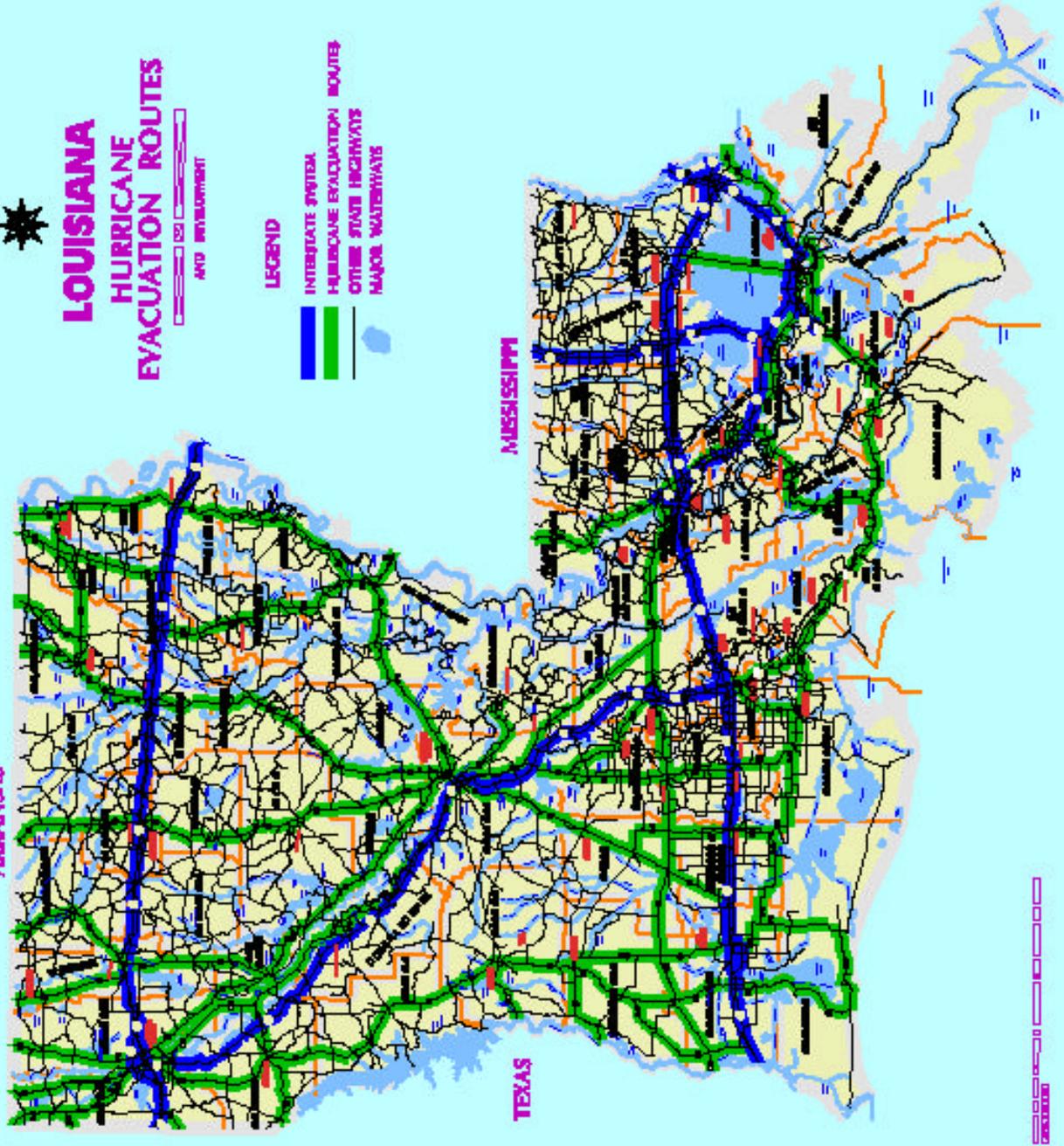
Clearance Hours: The number of hours needed to move 100% of the risk area population, given smooth traffic flow, out of the risk area. In the larger category storms, figures are slower for clearance times in which traffic flows as it does normally, as well as for traffic flow if designated routes are converted to one-way outbound traffic. A 2+2 hour figure is included to accommodate two hours to begin the evacuation and two hours to bring the evacuation to a stop.

Total Decision Hours: The total number of hours before hurricane landfall when the decision to call for evacuation must be made if an effort to move all risk area residents is to be made.

**LOUISIANA  
HURRICANE  
EVACUATION ROUTES  
AND DEVELOPMENT**



- LEGEND**
- INTERSTATE SYSTEM
  - HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTES
  - OTHER STATE HIGHWAYS
  - MAJOR WATERWAYS



0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



**ANNEX G**

**SAMPLE**

**LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the (Parish / City) of \_\_\_\_\_ is presently faced with an emergency due to \_\_\_\_\_ since (Month, Day, Year) , until present, and the (Parish / City) of \_\_\_\_\_ , declares a State of Emergency under Act 636, the Louisiana Disaster Act of 1993, as amended, and wishes to utilize its resources to the fullest extent; and

**WHEREAS**, the damages resulting are of such severity and magnitude that assistance is beyond the capabilities of \_\_\_\_\_ ; and

**WHEREAS**, supplemental assistance is deemed necessary in order to relieve the suffering of the citizens and to restore public facilities of (Parish / City).

**NOW THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY (PARISH / CITY) OF (\_\_\_\_\_)**, LOUISIANA, convened in (Regular / Emergency) session on (Month, Day, Year), that it does hereby declare that under the authority of the Louisiana Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act of 1993, as amended, a state of disaster exists in \_\_\_\_\_ .

\*\*\*\*\*

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of resolution adopted by the (Parish / City) Louisiana, convened in (Regular / Emergency) session convened on the (Day) of (Month) , (Year) .

\_\_\_\_\_  
( Name )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( Title)

# HURRICANE EVACUATION SIGN



FOR INFORMATION  
TUNE RADIO TO  
870 AM  
101.9 FM